Hotline between Coast Guards of India and Pakistan

809. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has proposed to Pakistan for a hotline between the Coast Guards of the two countries;

(b) whether India has also suggested non-arrest of fishermen in a certain earmarked zone within the territorial waters; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Pak Government on both the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Pakistan, on October 29, 2003, welcomed the Indian proposal to establish a hotline between the Indian Coast Guard and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency. As regards, non arrest of fishermen in the earmarked zone. Pakistan suggested working out of a mechanism so that the arrested fishermen are released within a month.

Employment to Ex-Jawans

810. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ex-jawans who are yet to be rehabilitated by providing employment;

(b) the mechanism to ensure that such jawans are provided suitable employment within a time frame;

(c) whether Government are aware that there are many cases that on account of non-payment of bribes these jawans who have applied in response to advertised posts do not get jobs; and

(d) whether Government propose to contact all the unemployed ex-jawans to bring to the Government's notice cases of bribes affecting them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) As per the information received from the various Zila Sainik Boards/ Rajya Sainik Boards, about 3.75 lakhs ex-jawans (ex-Servicemen) were registered with them for employment assistance as on 31.12.2002.

(b) There is no fixed time frame for providing re-employment to ex-Servicemen. Government is having a number of resettlement schemes for ex-Servicemen which include reservation in Government jobs, grant of loan/financial assistance for setting up for self-employment ventures, training programmes to improve employability after retirement or release from service, formation of ex-Servicemen coal transport companies and ex-Servicemen security agencies, etc. Ex-Servicemen seeking employment assistance register their names with the concerned Zila Sainik Board/Rajya Sainik Board. On receipt of intimation of vacancies, Zila Sainik Board/Rajya Sainik Board sponsor names of those ex-Servicemen who fulfil the eligibility criteria of the post(s) to the recruiting agency for their consideration.

(c) No case has been brought to the notice of Directorate General Resettlement, the nodal agency looking after the resettlement of ex-Servicemen, where ex-Servicemen have been denied jobs on account of non-payment of bribes.

(d) The Directorate General Resettlement has a network of Rajya Sainik Boards at the State Level and Zila Sainik Boards at the District level who have the onus of resolving various problems related to resettlement of ex-Servicemen. Ex-servicemen can have redressal of their grievances through Zila Sainik Board/Rajya Sainik Boards/Directorate General Resettlement in case they are demanded bribe by the recruiting agency.

Tender for supply of rockets

811. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had invited tender for the supply of rockets to Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount for which the tender was awarded and name of the vender;

(d) whether the tender was not awarded to the lowest bidder and if so, the justification thereof; and

(e) the extra amount paid as a result thereof?